Attachment 9

Program Preferences

The purpose of this attachment is to describe how implementation of the projects included in this Proposal will meet specific Program Preferences.

Key to this Proposal is the fact that all three of the projects meet multiple primary Program Preferences; drought preparedness, use and reuse water more efficiently, climate change response action, expand environmental stewardship, practice integrated flood management, protect surface water and groundwater quality and ensure the equitable distribution of benefits.

All three of these projects meet the program preference to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits by focusing on water quality needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) within the region. All three of the proposed projects will increase the participation of small and disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process, develop multi-benefits for projects located in disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations, and will address the state policies intended to provide access to safe, clean, and affordable water. In addition, the City of Holtville Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project is one that directly addresses wastewater treatment needs in a disadvantage community. If these projects are implemented, there is 100 percent certainty that this program preference will be met.

Table D outlines each of the three projects and details what program preferences the project will include. Below you will find a narrative detailing the certainty that the proposal will meet the program preferences and the details on how that preference will be achieved.

Table D: Proposal Project Preferences

	City of Holtville Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project	Interconnection Project between the City of El Centro, City of Imperial and Heber Utility District	Drainage Improvements in the Township of Seeley Project
Drought Preparedness		*X* *High Level of Certainty*	
Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently	*X* *High Level of Certainty*		
Climate Change Response Action		*X* *Moderate to High Level of Certainty*	
Expand Environmental Stewardship	*X* *High Level of Certainty*		*X* *High Level of Certainty*
Practice Integrated Flood Management			X *High Level of Certainty*
Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality			X *High Level of Certainty*
Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources			
Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits	X *High Level of Certainty*	X *High Level of Certainty*	X *High Level of Certainty*

City of Holtville Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvement Project

The project will meet the following three Program Preferences:

Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently

This project will effectively address long-term drought preparedness by helping to contribute to the sustainable water supply of the region. The WWTP failed to meet the final effluent ammonia concentration limits established by the RWQCB and will be unable to comply with these requirements if this project cannot be completed. In order to be able to appropriately treat the wastewater in this area, this plant must be brought back into compliance. Equally concerning are the indirect impacts to the environment resulting from the deficient treatment of wastewater. If the City's project is funded, wastewater will be able to be treated to the compliance standards established by the RWQCB improving the overall quality of effluent discharged.

Expand Environmental Stewardship

By making improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the quality of effluent released back into the environment will be improved thereby reducing the amount of toxins and pollutants into regional water streams. By improving the effluent, the ecosystem of the Salton Sea will improve as the City's effluent is released into the Pear Drain, a tributary of the Alamo River and Salton Sea. Remediation of the non-compliant wastewater effluent discharge quality which exceeds the acute aquatic standards, would no longer impact the Fathead Minnow a species of special concern. The Fathead Minnow is quite tolerant of turbid, low-oxygenated water, and can be found in muddy ponds and streams that might otherwise be inhospitable to other species of fish, including the Alamo River.

The City has experienced effluent quality problems, including toxicity and priority pollutant violations. The new discharge requirement, specifically the effluent ammonia concentration limit, is the most significant driver of the plant upgrade project. The Plant failed to meet the final effluent ammonia concentration limits established by the RWQCB and will be unable to comply without this project. This project will be completed with minimal adverse impacts to the environmental and the disadvantaged community that is serves.

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Attachment 9

Program Preferences

The City of Holtville is a disadvantaged community (DAC) with a Median Household Income (MHI) that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual median household income as defined under (PRC §75005 (g)) and as identified by the California Department of Water Resources Mapping Tool. The MHI for the City of Holtville (DAC) is $36,202 (2006-2010 American Community Survey) which is significantly less than the State's MHI at $48,706. This project will directly increase the participation of a small, disadvantaged community in the IRWM process. In addition, this project is one that directly addresses wastewater treatment needs to this disadvantaged community. The proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project serves the entire DAC in addition to a few isolated home sites outside of the City limits.

Interconnection Project between the City of El Centro, City of Imperial and Heber Utility District

Drought Preparedness

Infrastructure renovations to a public water supply system necessary to assure continued reliability of the minimum quality and quantity of water. The proposed project benefiting agencies seek to improve the reliability of the existing water distribution systems in the City of Imperial, the City of El Centro and the Heber Public Utility District by taking advantage to their proximity to each other. The proximity of the systems lends itself to the interconnection of the systems which would mitigate system risks by improving reliability and promoting public safety. In addition, this project will create a direct system intertie between the involved jurisdictions and agencies.

This project is needed in order to create this system and to provide an interconnected safe and reliable water source for the region to improve drought response. When this project is implemented, the Statewide Priority will be met on a local basis, increasing drought preparedness and increasing water supply reliability for the Imperial service areas by contributing to sustainable water supply and improving overall water system reliability, year-round and during water shortages.

Climate Change Response Action

This project will integrate resource management strategies to diversity the regional water supply portfolio through the creation of an interconnected system that will provide an enhanced reliable source of water. The purpose of the project is to create redundancy and improve safety within the affected jurisdictions. Each agency has built redundancy within their systems; however there is no redundancy in water source. Should a water treatment plant in one agency malfunction, there is no way to import water from an adjacent water agency. This project will create water use efficiencies and will reduce water demand as well as ensure the public water supply.

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

The City of El Centro and the Heber Public Utility District are disadvantaged communities with a Median Household Income that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual median household income as identified by the California Department of Water Resources Mapping Tool. The MHI for the City of El Centro is $38,481, and the MHI for the Heber Public Utility District is $37,472 (2006-2010 America Community Survey). This project will directly increase the participation of a small, disadvantaged community in the IRWM process. In addition, this project will develop a multi-benefit, multi-jurisdictional project that considers the needs of two disadvantaged communities.

Drainage Improvements in the Township of Seeley

Expand Environmental Stewardship

The storm water in Seeley currently ponds in the streets and at the side of the road. Seeley residents are at health and safety risk because the standing water causes vector control issues. The water also contains the usual contaminants from vehicles, such as those found in oil and grease. The project will expand environmental stewardship, in that it will drain the water away from the community and will go through a passive storm/nuisance water treatment system, which will trap sediment before the water drains naturally into the New River. It will also lower the risk of disease by reducing standing water that breeds mosquitoes.

Practice Integrated Flood Management

The Township of Seeley currently has a minimum number of engineered drainage structures. The project will construct drain pipes under roadways, which will convey storm water away from the community. The improvement will prevent further flooding of the streets, and will provide better and safer access for vehicles and pedestrians. The project will provide better emergency response time when the streets are flooded, as emergency vehicles will not be hindered by driving through deep water. The improvement will prevent further flooding of the streets, and will provide better and safer access for vehicles and pedestrians.

Protect Surface Water

Seeley's storm water already flows naturally into the New River; however a good deal of the storm water is trapped in the town because of the poor drainage. The drainage improvements will mean that most of the storm water will drain away from the Community and into the New River. The water treatment system that is a part of this project will mitigate the effect of the additional storm water draining into the New River.

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Seeley is classified as a disadvantaged community. The US Census Bureau reports that the mean household income is $34,432. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development classifies Seeley as a "Colonia". Colonias are rural communities located within 150 miles of the US–Mexican Border, which tend to lack basic necessities in infrastructure such as running water, electricity, and paved roads. Ruben Castro, the

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Program Preferences

Seeley Union School District Superintendant reports that 100% of Seeley students are eligible for free or reduced meals; and approximately 80% of the children walk or bicycle to school. The project will benefit all members of the small Community, regardless of income or social status.